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Ministry of Education

$2.7M SEISMIC UPGRADE MAKES GOLD RIVER STUDENTS SAFER

GOLD RIVER – A $2.7-million project to upgrade earthquake resistance at Gold River secondary school has been approved by the Province, Education Minister Shirley Bond said today.

"The safety of students and staff is a top priority for government," said Bond. "These seismic upgrades will ensure Gold River secondary will continue to be a safe place for students and staff to learn and teach, and for the community to use."

The seismic upgrades to the school building and gymnasium will include reinforcing the walls and roofs, and strengthening the connections between foundations, walls and roofs. Construction is expected to be complete by next spring.

"The safety of our students is paramount," said Vancouver Island West school board chair Josie Fletcher. "Given the geologic history of our area, we're pleased to be working with the ministry to reduce the seismic risk at Gold River secondary."

The work is part of a $1.5-billion program to seismically upgrade B.C. schools. The program is the most comprehensive seismic plan ever by a B.C. government.

Since 2001, the Province has invested $1.7 million in capital funding in the Vancouver Island West school district.

During the same period, the Province spent over $1 billion to complete 26 new schools, 32 replacements, 140 additions and 22 renovations projects across British Columbia. By the end of 2008-09, the Province will have invested more than $2.8 billion in school capital and maintenance projects.

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